

ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION
INVITES: DING SHILUN
28 SEPTEMBER–19 NOVEMBER 2023



Ding Shilun, *D77 (Fox)* (detail), 2023. Watercolour and ink on paper. Digital photograph. Courtesy the artist.

Zabludowicz Collection is pleased to present an Invites exhibition by Chinese-born, London-based artist Ding Shilun. Influenced by Chinese folklore and contemporary comics, Shilun works across illustration and painting to build mythological narratives depicting the absurdity of everyday life.

The installation extends from a site-specific wall mural by Shilun featuring a series of interconnected disembodied figures with human hearts exposed through their face, palms and chest. This enlarged rendition of his intricately detailed watercolour and ink illustrations serves as a significant backdrop for a salon-style display of the artist's recent series of thirty works.

Taking inspiration from his own *Daily Observation* series (developed during the 2020 lockdown), in which he created daily drawings of various events and stories, Shilun traces the journey of a spiky-haired artist navigating a distorted parallel reality. In Shilun's illustrations, street corners, cafés and public parks are transformed into surreal landscapes featuring encounters with other-worldly and monstrous beings. The artist character weaves through these scenes, often peering into windows or capturing moments on a smartphone.

In Shilun's diverse array of settings, scenes and scenarios, his character consistently assumes the role of an observer rather than a participant. As the narrative unfolds, tensions mount and supernatural interactions and conflicts revolve around him. From helicopter chases to police interventions, burning books to ice-cream trucks being blown away by the wind, the outcomes depicted in Shilun's works are characterised by chaos, conflict and a genuine fear of the unknown.

Blending traditional compositional techniques with popularised illustration, fact with fiction, and reality with non-reality, Shilun crafts a world full of storytelling and spectacle. Through illustrating the anxieties around navigating an urban environment, an artistic career, and his familial heritage, Shilun transforms his fears into existence. These self-made premonitions play out as a philosophical quest of the artist's own free will. Together they culminate in nonsensical realm of imagination and contemporary life in which Shilun relinquishes the emotional burden of an uncertain future.

Ding Shilun (b. 1998, Guangzhou, China) received an MA from the Royal College of Art in 2022 and a BA from Guangzhou Academy of Art in 2020. Recent exhibitions include *Premonition of Stranding*, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China (2023); Art Basel Miami, Galerie Maria Bernheim, USA (2022); *Paradiso*, Galerie Maria Bernheim, Zürich, Switzerland (2022); *Inside Out*, The Artist Room, London (2022); *Glory*, Making Space, Guangzhou, China (2021); *ABNORMAL*, LPS Gallery, Guangzhou, China (2021); *Da Vinci Talk: Wait and Hope*, Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna, New Zealand (2020); and *The Choice Of The Graduate Star 2020*, Boxes Art Space, OCAT Shenzhen, China (2020). Ding Shilun is represented by Galerie Maria Bernheim and is working towards an exhibition with K11 in Shanghai, China, in 2024.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION INVITES

Dedicated to solo presentations by UK-based artists without UK commercial gallery representation.

ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION

Zabludowicz Collection is a philanthropic organisation including a growing collection of contemporary art and a programme of international exhibitions, events and artists' residencies. Founded in 1994, the Collection is dedicated to fostering new audiences and a sustainable environment for contemporary art, offering a variety of opportunities and support for artists and art organisations. All of its activities are privately funded and free for the public to access.

For more information, images or any other press enquiries please contact:

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VISITOR INFORMATION

Admission: FREE

Thursday, 2pm–late
Friday–Sunday,
12–6pm or by appointment

Café, Library and Shop

The **Shop** sells limited edition artworks,
50% of the proceeds go directly to the artist.
shop.zabludowiczcollection.com

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Transport (TFL stations)

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